

# MERCATOR:

O R,

## Commerce Retrieved,

B E I N G

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British* Trade, &c.

From *Saturday*, November 21. to *Tuesday*, November 24. 1713.

*The Debate of the Treaty of Commerce lies in a very narrow Compass.*

*What has been laid down repeated, in order to bring the Debate to a Conclusion.*

*What was proposed in the last Mercator effectually proved and explained.*

*It is left in the Power of the Parliament to make the French Trade advantageous, if any part of the Treaty should prove deficient.*

**T**HE last *MERCATOR* reduced the Debate about the Treaty of Commerce to a very narrow Compass; indeed the *MERCATOR* was from the beginning of the Opinion, that the Debate lay in a little room, and wondered to see People go back so far, and to enquire, how we should now Trade, by how we did Trade.

It is true, one way to know, what our Trade might be, was to see, what it had been; but the Enemy, like unfair Disputants, pervert the true End and Design of a Retrospect into the Trade, and would Argue from what it has been, to what it shall be, with such a limitation of the Argument, as if it should not be able to be better, than it has been.

The *MERCATOR* has shewn, that the ordinary Exportation by the Custom-house Books, with what is known to pass by other Channels, has amounted to above a Million Sterling per Annum, even in a Year, after the French had for some time streightened and less'n'd our Commerce, by laying double Duties upon all our Woollen Manufactures; and he believes it is rational to Argue, that if those double Duties had not been laid on that Exportation, had been greater; but the People he has to do with are of that Logician's Sect, who said, *He that would Conquer an Adversary in Dispute, must resolve to Cavil at every thing, and grant Nothing.*

For this Reason the *MERCATOR* never Disputes with these Men, but laying down his Foundation, goes on to make good all that he has alledged, and leaves Impartial Men to judge of Truth by the light of their Reason, rejecting Cavil and a Paper War, as needless in this Case.

The result of the *MERCATOR*'s Arguments is now brought to this Head.

If in 1685, such or such a Quantity of our Manufactures was Exported to France, while a Duty of 20 per Cent. was laid upon them in France; when that Duty is taken off, that Exportation must be greater, because Cheapness causes Consumption: This has been proved by its contrary in an Example, (viz.) in 1687; another Duty of 20 per Cent. was likewise added to the former Duties then payable in France; immediately our Exportations sunk, and we sent out 250000 l. in Value less in one Year in those Goods only, than we did before;

by the same Rule had the first 20 per Cent. been taken off, the Exportation would have Encreased, as by adding a second 20 per Cent. it Decreased: This, the *MERCATOR* thinks, is a reasonable Inference.

Now the Treaty of Commerce taking off both those Duties, as well that of 1667, as that of 1687, in all 40 per Cent. there can be no reason, why our Exportations should not return to what they were before, except that dishonourable and forged Suggestion, of the French having no need of our Goods; which has been fully Answered, and deservedly Exposed, and is every Day Confuted, even by some of those very Men, who join in the Clamour, as appears by their sending out our Goods daily to France, even while the insupportable Duties there are sufficient to damp any Trade in the World.

The *MERCATOR* having thus effectually proved, that our Exportations shall by this Treaty be more than ever, has in the last Paper inculcated and press'd it as a National Duty, that we ought not to omit every occasion of Exporting and Extending our own Growth and Manufacture, because it is the Wealth of our Rich, and the Bread of our Poor; and that therefore this should be our first Care.

The *MERCATOR* then grants, that we ought so to check the Importation of Goods from abroad, as that the Quantity should not be suffered to Over-balance what we send out, because that Ballance is always to be made good out of the stated National Stock. This is granting all they Contend for.

But the *MERCATOR* alledges, that this is actually and effectually provided for in the Treaty, so that it is impossible, that we should have a Ballance of Trade against us from France; and this the *MERCATOR* is now farther to prove and explain: And if this is explained and proved, it will be very hard for any Man to assign a Reason, why the Treaty should not be made Effectual.

1. The first Provision made in the Treaty for the Advantage of the British Commerce, was, as before, to have all the high Duties in France taken off from our Manufactures, that their Exportation thither should not be any longer interrupted: This has been spoken to, and proved to be effectually done.

2. Their next Care was to preserve the Advantage to



us of keeping on so many of our high Duties upon the French Goods here, as might be effectual to Two Ends, (1.) To keep out some such Goods, as we were capable of making at home, so that our Manufacturing those Goods might not be Discouraged and Defeated. (2.) To load some others in such a manner, as that our Manufacturing part of them here might be to so much Advantage, that the Importation might do no harm, such as Wrought Silks, &c. and other Goods, which tho' we did make some of, yet we Imported great Quantities from other Countries. (3.) To check the Glut of other Goods, which we have none of, from our own Growth, that the Quantity might not Consume us by an Overbalance of Trade, (viz.) Their Wine and Brandy.

To make these Three Heads effectual to their respective Design, this Treaty, which is so much complain'd against, because so little understood, has, 1. Left a Duty on Alamodes and Lustrings of 11. 11s. 4d. per Pound weight, which is so high, that the Weavers themselves own'd at the House of Commons, that it was an effectual Prohibition, and no French Alamodes and Lustrings could for the future be brought in, the Duty being Ten times what it was before the War.

Upon the Wrought Silks, the Duty of 10 s. 6 d. and 12 s. per l. is left, being Three times what it was before.

Upon the Brandy, the Duty is advanced from 30 s. to 50 l. per Ton, being above Thirty times what it was before.

Upon the Wine, from 7 l. 10 s. to 27 l. 1 s. 4 d. being almost Four times what it was before.

The *MERCATOR* has insisted on it, that under these high Duties it is not reasonable to imagine that a like Quantity of these Goods shall be Imported, as was before.

But our Disputants, who, as is said above, will grant Nothing, and Cavil at every thing, are not ashamed to say, that this is all Nothing; that as much Wine shall be Imported, when by their own Notion of the Prime Cost and Customs, shall be at 52l. per Ton, as when it was at 15 l. 10 s.; that as much Brandy shall be Imported when the Prime Cost with the Customs shall amount to 70l. per Ton, as was in 1685, when both came to but 10l. 10s.; and that the Dearness of these Things shall not lessen the Consumption.

But the Makers of this Treaty, as if they foresaw, what a sort of Disputants we were like to have, and that two and two would not be allowed to make four in this Argument; as if they were resolved to provide, that no possible Cavil should lie against the Treaty, that not even Falshood it self, nor the worst Sophistry, should have Power or Face to stand up against it; after having made all this provision for our Trade, they left it to the Power of the British Parliament for ever hereafter: That when it should appear, if such a thing was possible, that the French, notwithstanding all these high Duties, should any way Overpower us, they might lay on any higher or farther Duties, till they had effectually prevented it, and rendered it impossible.

This is apparent in the Words of the 11th Article, where the Duties that are, or shall be laid by the British Parliament on Goods Imported here from France, are limited to no Rate, but such as shall be payable upon Goods of the like Quality from other Countries; so that whenever our Parliament shall find reason to lay a higher Duty on Foreign Wrought Silks, or Wine, or Brandies, &c. Imported from Italy, Holland, Portugal, Spain, &c. they may do the like on the French, till they bring the Importation as low as they please; whereas the French are expressly, in Words at length, tied up to take off all their Duties to the Year 1664.

This is such a Testimony to what has been said of the French Trade being to our Advantage, that no Front can withstand it, no Answer can be given to it: The Parliament have it always in their Power, if the Treaty should appear not to be sufficient, TO MAKE IT SO; and it is not only probable, that the French Trade may be for

our Advantage, but, unless we can suppose a British Parliament shall hinder it, 'twill for ever be impossible to be otherwise.

*ERRATA* in *Mercator*, No 77.

Col. 1. line 34. for 278 Barrels read 278 Barrels and.  
Col. 2. lin. 31. for 13 Chaldr. of Grindstones read 1013 Chaldr. of Grindstones. Col. 3. line 44. after Hair (,) Col. 4. line 1. dele Heavy Goods and.

## From the CUSTOM-HOUSE.

Nov. 19. Goods Exported to France in one Day.

16 l. Weight of Silk Stockings  
6 Dozen of Gloves  
10 Castors  
324 Yards of Flannel  
6 Pair of Hose  
2 Parcels of Wearing Apparel  
21 l. Apothecary Wares  
14 l. Wrought Iron  
56 l. Wrought Brads  
14 l. Books  
3 Stuffs  
\* 250 Stuffs  
18 C. Block Tin  
4545 l. Cotton Wooll  
140 C. Fustick  
100 Red Sawdurs  
220 Logwood  
623 l. Sassaaparilla  
23 Gall, Citron water  
80 C. Copperas  
56 l. Haberdashery  
250 Quarter of Barley  
10 Quarter of Oatmeal  
34 Bushel of Flower  
4 Firkins of Butter  
5 Ton of Iron Guns  
\* 118 C. Brown Sugar  
Certain odd things, Saddle, Shrooes, &c.

N. B. The *MERCATOR* finding he shall have Occasion to speak hereafter about those Trades which Export our Bullion in Specie, and without any Reflection, either Personal or Nation, thinks fit to give a Particular of the Quantity of Bullion Exported to Holland for some time past, and to come as follows.

From the Custom-House.

Exported to Holland in 3 Days, Nov. 16, 18, 19.

Nov. 16 7000 oz. Bullion  
18 10000 oz.  
19 20000 oz.

37000 Ounces of Silver in Bullion.



## ADVERTISEMENT.

ON the 20th Instant, Mr. Tompion, noted for making of all sorts of the best Clocks and Watches, departed this Life: This is to Certify to all Persons, of whatever Quality or Distinction, that William Webster, at the Dial and Three Crowns in Exchange-Alley, London, served his Apprenticeship, and served as a Journeyman a considerable time with the said Mr. Tompion, and by his Industry and Care is fully acquainted with his Secrets in the said Art.

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